

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 01366 191631Z
ACTION SS-25

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AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1366

EXDIS

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJ: RHODESIA: REPRESENTATION OF THE FRONTLINE AND NIGERIA
IN DAR ES SALAAM CONFERENCE

REF: (A) SECTO 4093, (B) LUSAKA 1324

1. SUMMARY: MARK CHONA EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT BUT DID NOT
APPEAR UNDULY SURPRISED BY THE LACK OF SUPPLENESS SHOWN BY THE
PATRIOTIC FRONT (PF) AT THE DAR MEETINGS. ZAMBIAN POSITION ON
RHODESIA IS THAT SPELLED OUT IN PRESIDENT KANDA'S LETTER TO
PRESIDENT CARTER (REF B). NKOMO WAS FULLY INSTRUCTED BY
PRESIDENT KAUNDA ON THE NEED TO ACCEPT THE MAJOR FEATURES OF THE
ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS WITHOUT QUIBBLING. THE PF'S INSISTENCE
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ON PLACING CONDITIONS ON ATTENDING AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE;
ITS REFUSAL TO AGREE THAT THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER SHOULD
EXERCISE EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS; AND ITS DEMAND
THAT THE POLICE FORCE BE RESTRUCTURED WAS A REVELATION TO
CHONA. END SUMMARY.

2. CHARGE MET WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR MARK CHONA APRIL 19

TO MAKE REPRESENTATION CALLED FOR IN REFTTEL A. CHONA LED OFF BY SAYING THAT HE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED BY NKOMO'S PUBLIC STATEMENTS FOLLOWING THE DAR MEETINGS TO BELIEVE THAT THEY HAD GONE WELL. HE HAD NOT MET WITH NKOMO FOLLOWING THE MEETINGS.

3. CHARGE PRESENTED OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE MEETINGS AS GIVEN IN REFTTEL A. CHONA'S FIRST REACTION WAS TO SAY (PERHAPS IN AN UNGUARDED MOMENT) THAT HE HAD DECIDED NOT TO GO TO DAR BECAUSE HE HAD THOUGHT THE MEETINGS MIGHT TURN SOUR. HE HAD BASED HIS ASSESSMENT ON THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED IN GETTING NKOMO AND MUGABE TO AGREE TO A TIME AND PLACE FOR THE MEETING.

4. HOWEVER, HE HAD THOUGHT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT WOULD HAVE SHOWN MORE WILLINGNESS TO BE ACCOMMODATING THAN THEY SEEMED TO HAVE DONE. PRESIDENT KAUNDA HAD PERSONALLY IMPRESSED UPON NKOMO BEFORE THE MEETING THE NEED TO AGREE TO THE MAJOR FEATURES OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS AND TO STOP QUIBBLING ABOUT DETAILS. ZAMBIA'S POSITION ON RHODESIA SETTLEMENT IS THAT SET OUT IN PRESIDENT KAUNDA'S LETTER OF APRIL 15 TO PRESIDENT CARTER. CHONA WAS PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY THE PF'S REFUSAL TO AGREE THAT THE RESIDENT COMMISSIONER SHOULD EXERCISE AUTHORITY IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE ASKED THREE TIMES IF THIS WAS IN FACT THE CASE. HE ALSO NOTED THE INSISTENCE OF THE PF ON PLACING CONDITIONS ON ATTENDING AN ALL PARTIES CONFERENCE. HE SHOOK HIS HEAD AND ASKED FOR DETAILS ON WHAT KIND OF CONDITIONS THE PF HAD LAID DOWN. CHONA ALSO EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT THE STRUCTURING OF AN INTERIM CONFIDENTIAL

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POLICE FORCE HAD BEEN AN ISSUE. HE SAID HE HAD BELIEVED THE PF HAD ACCEPTED THAT THE RHODESIAN POLICE WOULD CONTINUE IN BEING WITH A CHANGE OF ITS HEAD.

5. CHONA OFFERED NO EXPLANATION FOR THE APPROACH TAKEN BY THE PF OTHER THAN SAYING HE HAD ANTICIPATED THAT IT WOULD START OFF WITH AN EXTREME BARGAINING POSITION AND THEN BACK OFF. HE SAID THAT THE USG COULD BE ASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA WOULD CONTINUE TO COUNSEL NKOMO TO BE ACCOMMODATING IN ANY FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS. HE CHARACTERIZED THESE AS FAIR AND AS OFFERING THE BEST HOPE FOR A LASTING SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA.

6. IN PASSING CHONA SAID KAUNDA HAS CONSISTENTLY COUNSELLED NKOMO AGAINST JOINING THE SALISBURY GROUP. THIS, HE SAID, WOULD BE POLITICAL DISASTER.

7. COMMENT: CHONA APPEARED TO BE GENUINELY CONCERNED AT THE FAILURE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING AT DAR. WE TAKE AS SINCERE HIS ASSURANCES THAT THE GRZ WILL CONTINUE TO WORK ON NKOMO TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSALS, BUT HAVE DOUBTS AS TO HOW EFFECTIVE ITS EFFORTS WILL BE. DESPITE CHONA'S CHAGRIN OVER THE

PF'S CONDUCT, WE ARE NOT CONVINCED THAT THE GRZ WILL REFRAIN
FROM BLAMING THE UK AND US FOR THE FAILURE OF THE DAR TALKS TO
PRODUCE MORE IN THE WAY OF AGREEMENT.
CLINGERMAN

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